

07/07/2022

Dear Disability Advocacy secretariat,

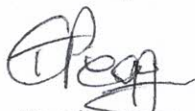
Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft National Disability Advocacy Framework 2022-2025. The Association for Children with Disability (Tas) Inc. is a Tasmanian not-for-profit organisation, better known as ACD Tas. ACD Tas is a peer-led family organisation that provides information, advocacy, consultation and training, NDIS support coordination and peer assistance to families across Tasmania with children with disability.

Daily we engage with and work for more than 250 parents, carers, children and young people with disability (newborn to 25 years old) who require information, advocacy and self-advocacy and/or capacity building assistance, including 208 Participants of the NDIS. Their experiences and the data received from each interaction informs our knowledge of service system gaps and social inclusion barriers, demonstrates patterns and trends, and provides evidence of need and ideas for community and service system development purposes. Our mission is to provide community leadership and quality support options that improve participation and life outcomes. Our vision is that people with disability, their families and carers have equal opportunity to reach their potential and lead fulfilling lives.

As a disability advocacy organisation and member of Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA), we have worked in consultation with many Advocacy organisations to provide input into the draft National Disability Advocacy Framework and endorse the DANA submission. We agree that advocacy has a vital role to play in safeguarding people and their rights and overcoming barriers to their inclusion and participation in the community. We also believe that disability advocacy and a human rights-based approach has the potential to become a key component in the arsenal of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments for gauging and reporting on the successful implementation of legal human rights instruments, from effective policies and practices through to everyday participation realities of people with disability.

We urge the Disability Reform Ministers and their respective governments to continue to commit to support and effectively fund and engage with independent disability advocacy services, to realise the vision of Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-31 and the National Disability Insurance Scheme: an Australia that includes and values people with disability and respects human rights for all.

Sincerely,



Caroline Pegg  
ACD Tas Chief Executive Officer